

## Baltimore Expo Meeting

**Report from Gerry Fortin:** The day [June 22nd] started at 8:30 AM with setup of Room 301 for the LSCC regional meeting that began promptly at 9:00 AM. Attendance was excellent for a summer Baltimore show with fourteen club members in total. Below is the group photo taken at the start of the meeting with several more individuals arriving afterwards. The photo reminds me of a police line up with lots of serious faces probably due to an early start to the day and lack of coffee. At least, Darrell Low, myself, Matt Mayer, and Alan Welty are smiling for the camera.

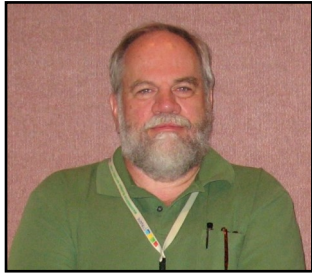
Gerry hosted the meeting and covered several topics including the Premier LSCC Membership Medal status followed by a presentation on Liberty Seated quarters dollars as an under rated denomination that is worthy of attention by serious numismatists. The meeting wrapped up just in time for the opening of the Baltimore bourse floor to the public and then the action at GFRC Table 735 immediately started.

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Group photo (at least those there for the camera) at the June 2018 LSCC meeting at the Whitman Baltimore Expo.

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## Auction News

### by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

As usual for June, there were three major auctions to start this summer season: Goldbergs, Heritage, and Stack's Bowers. Please be aware that an unusually high number of problem coins and coins that did not meet their reserves were in these sales. These coins are not normally reported in the Auction News without other extenuating circumstances such as rarity.

Two examples of the very scarce uncirculated 1844-O half dime were in the June auctions: one in the Long Beach sale and one in the Baltimore sale. Each was graded PCGS MS62 and were the V-2 variety with the small O mint mark. Both coins also had a medallion die alignment, which is found on virtually all examples of this variety. These coins were sold eight days apart providing an unexpectedly entertaining lot description in the Baltimore sale: "...the chances of a comparable piece showing up anytime soon in the numismatic marketplace are pretty slim."

Four 1877 proof double dimes, or twenty cent pieces, were sold at the higher price levels that started in 2016. This is the last time they will be noted in the Auction News unless there appears to be another price shift.

**Goldbergs Pre-Long Beach Auction, June 10-11, Los Angeles.** A few better date Liberty Seated coins were offered in this auction, with many reserves not met, but two uncirculated 1838-O half dimes were sold. The MS63 coin was the V-2 variety with the typical late die state caused by extensive obverse die rust or spalling. However, the MS62 coin was a surprise. I expected it to be a V-1, but it was also a V-2 in one of the earliest die states I have seen with very little die deterioration.

1838-O	half dime	NGC	MS63	\$8,100	V-2
1838-O	half dime	NGC	MS62	\$5,160	V-2

**Stack's Bowers Galleries Auction, Whitman Coin and Collectibles Expo, June 21-26, Baltimore.** This auction also had a wide selection of better date Liberty Seated coins. One 1840(O) medium letters reverse half

1840-O WD	half dime	PCGS	AU53	\$2,400	CAC, with drapery
1844-O	half dime	PCGS	MS62	\$7,200	CAC, V-2 small O
1860-O	dime	PCGS	VF25	\$2,400	
1871-CC	dime	PCGS	FR2	\$1,560	
1877	double dime	PCGS	PR-63 CAM	\$14,400	CAC
1842-O SD	quarter	PCGS	F15	\$1,800	
1851-O	quarter	PCGS	VF35	\$1800	
1872-CC	quarter	PCGS	VG8	\$2,040	
1840(O)	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$3,000	WB-4, reverse of 1838
1844-O	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$4,200	WB-22, doubled date
1851	half dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$1,440	WB-6
1875-S/CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	AU55	\$2,280	Type I/I, FS-501
1878-CC	Trade dollar	PCGS	XF40	\$3,840	

dollar sold for an unusually high price or almost twice the PCGS Price Guide. This coin was the commoner variety (WB-4) of this intriguing New Orleans type, indicating that the high price may have been due to its provenance as the Breen plate coin.

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**Heritage Signature Auction, Long Beach Coin Expo, June 14-17.** A wide selection of better date Liberty Seated coins were in this sale including several early New Orleans half dimes, a nice run of scarcer dimes from the 1860s, three 1877 double dimes, seven 1870-CC dollars (not listed below), and a proof 1857 dollar in an AU58 holder.

1840-O WD	half dime	NGC	AU53	\$2,040	with drapery
1842-O	half dime	PCGS	AU55	\$1,440	
1844-O	half dime	PCGS	MS62	\$5,760	V-2, small O
1863	dime	PCGS	F12	\$930	
1863	dime	NGC	MS65	\$3,120	
1864	dime	PCGS	AU55	\$2,640	F-102a
1864-S	dime	PCGS	MS65	\$12,000	
1865-S	dime	PCGS	VF35	\$720	
1866	dime	PCGS	XF45	\$1,680	F-102b
1866-S	dime	PCGS	XF40	\$528	
1867	dime	PCGS	MS62	\$2,880	F-102
1868-S	dime	PCGS	AU58	\$2,280	
1877	double dime	PCGS	MS61	\$10,800	
1877	double dime	PCGS	MS63	\$13,200	
1877	double dime	PCGS	MS61 CAM	\$13,200	
1860-S	quarter	NGC	AU55	\$13,200	
1871-CC	half dollar	PCGS	XF45	\$2,880	WB-7
1873-CC NA	half dollar	PCGS	VF25	\$2,040	WB-1, no arrows
1873-CC WA	half dollar	ANACS	AU55	\$2,760	WB-3, with arrows
1840	dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$3,120	OC-3
1857	dollar	PCGS	MS62	\$4,800	OC-2
1857	dollar	PCGS	AU58	\$4,560	OC-P1



## Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

### Collecting Perfection?

There is a problem with perfection. Both the search for the perfect coin and the quest to build the perfect collection can miss the art of collecting. There is a reason that I don't collect modern, mass produced, MS70 or PR70 coins. They are too perfect; too much the same; too lacking in individuality; missing the character of the hand made. The Japanese have a word for it: wabi-sabi. Wabi-sabi can be a hard concept to understand, but might best be described as a summation of Japanese aesthetic sensibility, which finds beauty not in things that are perfect and eternal, but in things that are imperfect and fleeting. The term reflects something of the Buddhist view of life, also nicely articulated by Niels Bohr who said, "The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth." The profound truth in this case: the imperfection of perfection, or if you prefer the perfection of imperfection.

I will admit this to be a strange topic for a coin column. But at least some of you who check this space each month because you collect, and study Liberty Seated coin varieties are nodding in recognition of the idea above. Beauty comes from the imperfections. It comes from the hand-made dies; the flawed planchets, the repunched dates, the clash marks, the die cracks, the striking imperfections; the toning (chemical corrosion); and the other things that distinguish each example from every other. It is this uniqueness and hand-made, one off character that makes Liberty Seated coins interesting. The appeal is that coins we collect are imperfect and fleeting, though not necessarily on the same time scale as those who collect them, who consistently move from youth to old age in 40 short years or so.

This same idea can be applied to collections. Every coin collection is as unique as a fingerprint. In fact, it is a kind of fingerprint; a unique expression of the collector who assembled it. A collection that exists today is the result of an infinite number of small decisions made over a period of time, in many different situations, and with an infinite number of possible choices. Collections can be small or large; focused or unfocused; small coins or large coins (or both); silver, gold, copper or some combination; expensive or inexpensive; growing or shrinking; changing direction; standing still for a while. In other words: Alive. Collections are imperfectly and fleetingly alive.

I suspect that people who become unhappy and lose their joy in coin collecting are often focused on perfection. They try to find the perfect coin or build the perfect collection, with a main idea being permanence. The point of this little essay/blog, if there is one, is that more joy can come from building a collection by embracing the fleeting impermanence of the project. Whether you are buying and selling to craft a careful sculpture of a collection, or accumulating a pile for which you may need Andy Warhol to find the beauty, it pays to embrace the journey itself, the process of imperfect, impermanent collectors building imperfect, impermanent collections. It can be beautiful. And perfect.





## LSCC Calendar

June 27, 2018. **Gobrecht Journal** Issue #132 printed and mailed to all current members.

August 15-18, 2018. **LSCC annual meeting, education program, table, and social. Philadelphia, PA.** ANA World's Fair of Money, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. The all important annual LSCC meeting is Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 9 AM in room 120c. There will be a club activities update, awards presentations, treasurer's report, regional activities report, and an educational program by Dick Osburn on *Liberty Seated Dollar Varieties*. The LSCC staff will be at the club table on the bourse floor with a very special exhibit. There will be a no-host dinner/social planned for Thursday evening. Details to be provided at the club table.

August 17, 2018. **Money Talks Program. Philadelphia, PA.** ANA World's Fair of Money, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. John Frost will present the *Fascination New Discoveries regarding Father-Son Mint Engravers, William and Charles Barber* on Friday, August 17, 2018 at 4 PM in room 121b. Please support John on his ground breaking research and attend his presentation.

October 1, 2018. Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for **Gobrecht Journal** Issue #133.

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## Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Summer is the slow season for the coin hobby. This gives us the opportunity to reflect on other aspects of the numismatic community and consider ways we can be ambassadors for the LSCC. As members

we know what a special club the LSCC is. However, others in the numismatic community may not be informed about the kind of knowledge and comradeship enjoyed herewith. Local clubs are the backbone of the hobby. Giving a short presentation on Liberty Seated coinage at your local club, showing off one of the prized components of your collection, or simply telling a story of some bit of knowledge you learned thru your membership in the LSCC can present the club to a whole new audience. Local clubs have a mix of wide ranging collecting interests. Members are always interested in what others collect and what knowledge they can pass along about their collecting pursuits.

More formalized presentations on Liberty Seated coinage are also available on the club website. Another avenue would be to put together a PowerPoint presentation of your own. I find I am more comfortable presenting my own work as I know it better than when I am presenting someone else's work. A club PowerPoint template could be obtained from the club Education Director (John Frost) by simply making a request.

Local clubs in your own area are a vastly under-tapped resource for growth. Any kind of approach used to highlight the LSCC could result in new interest in Seated coinage and the LSCC. Please don't hesitate to contact me or the Education Director for assistance in preparing some large or small presentation for your local club.

My interest in Liberty Seated half dollars is well known at my local club. Even so stressing the importance of just how rare Liberty Seated key dates are could spark interest that was not there before.



Dennis Fortier displaying his 1878-S Liberty Seated half dollar at local club meeting.

John Frost had this report on the Raleigh, NC show.

June 7-9 found the LSCC at the Raleigh Money Expo, the annual show of the Raleigh Coin Club, held at the Expo Center of the NC State Fairgrounds. Our second time here, this is an excellent show, and is very well managed. Good traffic each day for Joe Casazza (imaged below), Carl Feldman, and I, with educational programs a highlight and well publicized. Each of our sessions were attended by local collectors and club members. At the table, we had rewarding discussions with many over the three days, including a

number who had joined the LSCC during our prior visit 3 years ago. They are still enthusiastic members and were glad to see us back in Raleigh. We gave a special preview of some of what is



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planned for Philadelphia this summer, and I expect we will see some of the Raleigh attendees making the trip to the ANA this August.

At the ANA Summer Seminar this month, we took a year off from presenting the Liberty Seated course, but Craig Eberhart, Len Augsburger, and I were on hand taking classes of our own. I heard a number of people who mentioned how much they look forward to taking the class in the future. John Frost also taught a class on Patterns and Errors, featuring a number of Liberty Seated pieces. He was also an invited presenter at the *Detecting Counterfeits and Altered Coins* class, highlighting the 1872-S counterfeit identified 18 months ago, plus a special presentation to the Inter-Session attendees over dinner, between the two weeklong sessions. Fred, the owner of the piece, again graciously loaned the piece for examination by the students. Thanks, Fred, for your willingness to allow the LSCC to use this as an educational piece.

The Long Beach Expo club dinner had a small but spirited group for good food and coin talk. Sum-

mer shows are smaller, so it follows that club activities are as well, but that never stops a good time.

Gerry Fortin (LSCC president) hosted the club meeting at the June Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo. Gerry reports strong attendance for a summer Baltimore meeting. He updated the Premier LSCC Membership Medal Program and gave a presentation titled, *"Liberty Seated Quarters – An Underrated Series and Denomination."*

The Summer FUN is July 12-14. There are no club activities planned for the Summer FUN show this year.



No response was received on my inquiry about Philadelphia restaurants for a club dinner at the ANA. Unless a suggestion is received soon that dinner will have to be arranged last minute at the show itself.

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## Cracked, Shattered, and Terminal by Benny Haimovitz, LSCC #2494

### 1868-S Half Dime V-1a (Late Die State)



The largest production of the half dime denomination in 1868 was from the San Francisco branch mint with an issue of some 280,000 pieces. One of the marriages for this date and mint is identified as V-1a which provides quite a nice late die state (LDS) example for col-

lectors to enjoy.

Obverse indicators include a die crack from the ES in STATES across the top of Liberty's head and into the Liberty Cap. Additionally, the die is clearly deteriorated / abraded in the area of her elbow and drapery near the lower pole for the Liberty Cap. The best markers for the late die state obverse, however, are the significant die cracks that have formed from the dentils through in the letters S and T in STATES into the field toward the seated Miss Liberty.



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Best reverse V-1a diagnostics are the web-like die cracks appearing throughout the wreath, but mainly in the lower portion on the wreath, bow and through the S mintmark. Small internal cuds begin to appear at several locations within the cracked areas.

Diagnostics courtesy of Dr. D. W. Valentine's early work, The United States Half Dimes and Al Blythe's 1992 The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated

Half Dimes. Additional specific die state information is from Steven A. Crain's "A New Variety for the 1868 -S Half Dime" in Volume 22, Issue #64 of the *Gobrecht Journal* (November 1995).

Thanks to "yosclimber" on the LSCC Half Dime Message Board for his continuing assistance.

Images courtesy of PCGS TrueView with this example graded MS62.

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## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### ANA Summer Seminar 2018 Edition

Numismatics tends to slow in the summer, although travel picks up and, conversely, the summer heat makes everything appear sleepier than usual. None of this was apparent at the recent ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, where moderate weather dominated and numismatic activity maintained a healthy pace. This event is scheduled just after the end of the school year and certainly draws its share of young numismatists (“YNs” in ANA-parlance), but there is plenty here for adults as well. Courses are offered on multiple topics, and there is something of interest for everyone.

Colorado College is conveniently situated next to the ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs and provides housing and meal service for the event, though to be honest I’ve stayed at a local B&B (the St. Mary’s Inn) that is within walking distance of all points of interest. More than a few glasses of wine were consumed on the St. Mary’s porch with fellow Summer Seminar attendees Craig Whitford, John Frost, and Ron Swerdloff. The ANA headquarters are in “open house” mode for the duration, where visitors may peruse the offerings in the annual book sale (capably managed by ANA librarian David Sklow) or browse the museum, which currently offers an exhibit on numismatics related to World War I. Numerous side trips are available, sponsored by the ANA, or on one’s own (ask me about the 3-hour uber ride I took to the top of Pikes Peak and back to Colorado Springs). I also took in downtown Manitou Springs and the Broadmoor, an old time resort in the tradition of such fancy places on the east coast.

This year I took the class offered by John Kraljevich and Erik Goldstein on colonial paper money. John and Erik are raconteurs *par excellent* and this

class would be worth the price of admission even if the entire time were spent watching paint dry. These two covered all aspects of early American paper money, and the questions one asks are fairly universal across numismatics. Why was a particular piece of money issued, and what were the economic conditions surrounding its circulation? How was the money produced, and who made it? What varieties exist, and which ones are rare? In the case of colonial paper money, the most well-known issues were associated with funding for the Revolutionary War, and, to a lesser extent, the French-Indian war in the 1750s. The Continental Congress issued endless amounts of currency to raise money for the war, eventually redeemed for about one cent on the dollar (thus the phrase “not worth a Continental”). Of course, speculation is timeless, and the luckiest were able to accumulate bundles of the ostensibly worthless bills for even less than the eventual redemption rate. Yes, there is profiteering, even in debt.

The LSCC offered a class on Seated coinage at the 2016 and 2017 Summer Seminars, and took a break this year due to scheduling conflicts. These are inevitable on the “coin calendar,” as there are simply too many moving parts when it comes to managing coin shows, running a business, or simply dealing with personal social obligations. Stay tuned, as past events have been a great success and we wish to continue this particular educational outreach in the future. Although a four-day commitment, plus travel to Colorado Springs, you will find the time well spent, and I hope to see you all at a future Summer Seminar.



## Seated Shorts

**From Arno Safran, LSCC #1697:** Long or short, the *E-Gobrecht* is always enjoyable to read from start to finish especially when you feature my good numismatic buddy and dear friend Carl Feldman on the cover sheet. Carl and I go back a long ways, probably to 1984 when we joined the New Jersey Numismatic Society. Never was there a better group of numismatists, both elderly or young. Carl and I soon found out we had similar numismatic interests; early U.S. Draped Bust type, Liberty Seated and Barbers plus we both enjoyed sharing each other's acquisitions acquired at the ANA or Baltimore shows.

By coincidence, a couple of weeks ago Carl phoned me to see how I was doing since a couple of stalwart members of the NJNS and Garden State Numismatic Association had passed away in early May. That's the kind of friend he is. Some of his better date Liberty Seated half dollars are awesome.

**On behalf of Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2006:** Recently Dennis completed his time as president of the Pawcatuck Valley (RI) coin club. At the celebratory dinner, Dennis had a "Key Date Cake" for attendees to enjoy. How many times have you seen one of these? [Ed.]



1878-S Half Dollar on the "Key Date Cake."

## Call for LSCC Officer Nominations

The officers of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club are seeking nominations for the following elected club positions: **President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer.** The current term of elected office for the incumbents expires on December 31, 2018.

The next term of office is from January 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2020, a two-year term.

The election will take place via postal mail in November and December 2018. The ballot will be mailed to all current members with the Fall 2018 *Gobrecht Journal*, Issue #133. Results will be announced in January 2019.

All three current officer, Gerry Fortin, Len Augsburger, and Dale Miller have indicated they will again seek office in the LSCC.

Please consider running for office and supporting the LSCC and the hobby.

**Submit your nomination(s) no later than October 1, 2018** to the Bill Bugert, LSCC Editor-Publisher, via phone, email, or postal mail, at the contact information on the last page.





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**Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted.** I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at [jason@seated.org](mailto:jason@seated.org)

**Brian Greer,** well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>.

**Half Dollar Book Available.** Volume V of Bill Bugert's books, *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume V, Philadelphia Mint, 1839-1852* available from the author for \$65 postpaid. Contact Bill at [wb8cpy@earthlink.net](mailto:wb8cpy@earthlink.net).

**Liberty Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted.** I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at [davethomas333@hotmail.com](mailto:davethomas333@hotmail.com) or 1-714-872-2772.

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**Larry Briggs Rare Coins.** New updated website with many photos—check us out at: [www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com](http://www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com)

**Dr. Eugene Bruder** is constantly updating his website, [www.typecoins.com](http://www.typecoins.com), which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. You can reach him at 402-475-0350 or email at: [gene@typecoins.com](mailto:gene@typecoins.com).

**Seeking 1839 Gobrecht Dollar.** Prefer 45-60 condition, cleaned and retoned OK. John Cory, 201-669-6500, [jcory@nj.rr.com](mailto:jcory@nj.rr.com).



Liberty Seated Collectors  
Club

### National Officers

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## LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: [www.lscweb.org](http://www.lscweb.org)  
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LSCC Membership Information. Dues are bargain priced at \$25 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.

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### ***Wanted: Material for this newsletter!***

*Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.*

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